

PIERCE COUNTY ISLANDS WILDLIFE AREA TIER 3 PLANNING PROCESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes that sound planning related to the use and stewardship of lands it manages on behalf of the public is a partnership effort with the people it serves and that the end product must be broadly supported as well as fit the capabilities of the property. The DNR encourages and provides opportunities for citizen involvement throughout the planning process. This document outlines the strategy for soliciting public review and feedback on the development of Tier 3 management plan for the Pierce County Islands Wildlife Area.

Management plan development will be based on and influenced by existing statutes, administrative codes, scientific data, management opportunities and resources capabilities, surveys, judgment of resource management experts, and public opinion. The local and regional recreational supply and demand as well as economic and social characteristics also will be considered.

OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The master process for Tier 3 Management Plans has three main phases.

Phase One – Inventory and Analysis

Department staff will gather current information about the property's resources and public uses. As appropriate, information about the surrounding region will also be gathered to place the property's needs and opportunities into context.

Phase Two – Plan Development

Phase Two focuses on the development of the Tier 3 management plan. This plan will provide an overview of the property's regional context, property description, resources (e.g., cover types, rare species, etc.), infrastructure and public uses, and significant management issues. The plan will also propose management and use objectives and prescriptions for the property.

Once a draft plan is complete, the department will provide an opportunity for public review and comment. Based on the input received, the department will make any necessary changes and develop a final draft document.

Phase Three – Presentation to the Natural Resources Board

Phase Three is a presentation of the draft plan to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) for their consideration.

PROCESS FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC INPUT

The department's goals for public involvement in property planning are to offer the public meaningful ways to be involved in shaping the future management and use of their favorite properties, and to provide a means for interested people to stay informed about the property and planning progress.

Public input is welcome and accepted at any time throughout the planning process. Contact information for where the public can submit information, comments, or questions is provided at the end of this document.

Formal public comments will be solicited at the following points during the planning process:

- When the draft plan is released for public review and comment.
- When the Natural Resources Board considers approval of the proposed plan. The NRB offers the public an opportunity to provide input directly to them.

HOW THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE PLANNING INFORMATION

News Releases

News releases will be issued at key stages of the project to provide information updates and to solicit public comments.

Direct Mailings (e-mail and regular mail)

The department is using GovDelivery, an electronic notification service, to keep interested parties (landowners, user groups, sporting clubs, environmental groups, service groups, local government, state officials, affected Indian Tribes, local and state newspapers, etc.) informed about upcoming events and discussions. This email system is used at key points in the planning process to provide information about the property and to announce meetings, decisions, and other planning updates. To sign up for GovDelivery notifications about the Pierce County Islands Tier 3 planning process, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov>, keyword search “master planning”, then click on “Pierce County Islands”. You can then subscribe to GovDelivery bulletins by clicking the link next to the red envelope symbol. You can also sign up for the mailing list by contacting the DNR staff at the addresses, phone numbers, or emails provided at the end of this document.

Web Page

The department will set up a special Web page where information and documents related to this planning process may be viewed.

Consultation with Other Governments

As needed, throughout the planning process the department will consult directly with other government bodies on a government-to-government basis regarding mutual planning interests. This includes town and county officials, committees or boards, federal agencies, and Indian Tribes.

MASTER PLANNING CONTACTS

For more information about the planning process, to give comments or suggestions on this public participation plan, or to add your name to the mailing list, contact:

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For property-specific comments or questions, contact:

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